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## **Effective Death Penalty Act Passes,** **Measure Includes Closed-Circuit T.V. for Crime Victims**

*Washington, D.C.* -- In a 229-191 vote, Ernest J. Istook, Jr. (R-Okla.) voted today for final passage of the Effective Death Penalty and Public Safety Act of 1996. The measure includes a key provision supported by Oklahoma City bombing victims that limits the appeals process for convicted murderers. It also includes an amendment, introduced by Istook and Rep. Frank Lucas (R-Okla.), that requires courts to provide victims access to trial coverage through a closed-circuit television if the trial is moved out of the state or far from the scene of the crime.

**“This will stop the almost-endless appeals process in death penalty cases, which has caused victims and their families unnecessary grief,”** stated Istook. **“Our community and the victims of the bombing deserve to see timely justice for those convicted of the 168 murders.”**

**“Victims of federal crimes have a legal right to view the trial and this protects that right,”** Istook added. **“For those who are unable to travel to Denver this will enable a closed-circuit television broadcast of the trial. But to avoid problems, it would not be re-broadcast on regular television.”**

The bill also:

- Strengthens the rights of crime victims and establishes compliance standards for court-ordered payments to victims as a condition for parole
- Provides for immediate deportation of illegal aliens convicted of crimes after they serve their prison terms and denies asylum to alien terrorists
- Gives federal courts the authority to hear civil suits brought against terrorist-sponsored nations for criminal acts committed against U.S. citizens
- Makes it a federal crime to murder or attempt to murder federal employees while performing their duties

The bill now goes to a House-Senate conference committee to iron out differences between the two versions.

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